

an>

Title: Need to take immediate steps to withdraw the eviction notice to Malgodam traders in Cuttack Parliamentary Constituency.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam, this is a local issue but it has a national ramification because it deals with my constituency. When waterways were in operation in Cuttack, Odisha, during the British period after 1866 and when Odisha faced a very severe famine, more than 10 million people had perished during that period. The traders had build up a Malgodown. Subsequently, when the Indian Railways or the Bengal-Nagpur Railway came into operation in 1901, then this area was given by the Bengal Presidency to the Railways. A levy was charged, a license fee was being collected from the traders, wholesale traders, sub-wholesale traders and shopkeepers and railway became the mode of transport. Licence fee is being collected. Peculiarly in February 2015, a notice has been served. When I went back last weekend, a large number of traders from Malgodam – they are thousands in number as Malgodam, Cuttack caters to the whole of the State providing food stock and other materials – came to me and said that this was what the NDA Government had done. Railway gave a notice to them to vacate this place by 31st of March. Thousands of traders are going to be shifted from that place. What for? The whole mechanism of providing succour to different districts is going to be hampered. My request is this. They are paying licence fee. They are in occupation of this place for the last 130 or 140 years. This is the concern, which I thought that I should bring it to the notice of this Government, through you, Madam.

I am raising it in 'Zero Hour'. I know that the Government will not respond to me but, I think, there will be some response from the Government ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You are knocking the door.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : I would request the Government to take immediate steps to withdraw this eviction notice so that they can continue to do their work in Malgodam, and the Malgodam traders should not be evicted.